candidates for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D., funds for which are provided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (iii) Post-Doctoral Fellowship for SC or ST candidates for pursuing Post-Doctoral Research in their respective thrust areas, (iv) postgraduate Scholarship for professional courses for SC or ST Candidates for pursuing their postgraduate in professional Courses. However it may be stated that these schemes are scholarship schemes and do not envisage free of cost education for the beneficiary students.

(b) and (c) As the UGC has been unable to provide the required information on the details of students benefitted and the funds released State-wise in respect of the Schemes for the benefit of the SCs and STs, the information will be collected and laid separately on the Table of the House.

Policy to achieve Millennium Development Goal

983. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to have a forward looking policy to improve the nature, quality and access to education to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of education for all by 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in this direction especially in Andhra Pradesh for the people like muslim minorities, SCs, STs, and OBCs; and

(d) the funds released in this direction so far to achieve the MDG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to improve access, enrolment, equity and quality of education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen, through various initiatives, including the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal Scheme and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 was enacted in August, 2009 to provide for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years.

(c) The achievements in elementary education are indicated below:—

Indicator	2001-02	2006-07
1	2	3
Gross Enrolment Ratio (classes I-VIII)	82.4	96.92
Dropout Rate (class I-VIII)	54.6	46.03
No. of out-of-school children (in crore)	3.20	0.45 (in 2008)
Gender Parity index (class I-VIII)	0.81	0.92

1	2	3
Access to primary school (within 1 km)	86.96% (in 2002)	99% (in 2008)
Access to upper primary school (within 3 km)	78.11% (in 2002)	90% (in 2008)
Gross Enrolment Ratio (classes I-VIII) for SCs	85.6	105.69
Gross Enrolment Ratio (classes I-VIII) for STs	88.9	109.48

In respect of Andhra Pradesh the achievements are as under:—

Indicator	2001-02	2006-07
Gross Enrolment Ratio (classes I-VIII)	82.47	88.13
Dropout Rate (classes I-VIII)	63.09	56.74
Gender Parity Index (class I-VIII)	0.81	0.99
Gross Enrolment Ratio (classes I-VIII) for SCs	97.07	94.57
Gross Enrolment Ratio (classes I-VIII) for STs	83.58	94.44

Information on the above indicators in respect of Muslims minorities and OBCs is not maintained centrally.

(d) The expenditure incurred by the Central Government during the last two years is as under:—

(in Rs crore)

Scheme	2007-03	2008-09
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	11,477.39	12,643.17
Mid Day Meal Scheme	5,835.44	6,688.02
Teacher Education Scheme	315.00	253.71

Setting up of HRD centres

984. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up HRD centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Human Resource Development is already executing a number of schemes/programmes for the development of human resources such as Saakshar Bharat, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in schools, Rashtriya Madhyamik